

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Employers Affected by Southern California Storms and Mudslides Eligible for Extension on Filing Employment Tax Returns

SACRAMENTO – Employers directly affected by damage from the January 2005 severe storms and mudslides in Ventura, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Santa Barbara counties may request up to a 60-day extension of time from the state Employment Development Department (EDD) to file their state payroll reports and deposit state payroll taxes without penalty or interest.

State payroll taxes include Unemployment Insurance, Employment Training Tax, State Disability Insurance, and California Personal Income Tax.

This extension, applicable only to reports and taxes for the fourth quarter of 2004 and the first quarter of 2005, may be granted under Section 1111.5 of the California Unemployment Insurance Code (CUIC). Written requests for extension must be received by EDD with a postmark date of March 14, 2005 or earlier for Ventura County, and March 16, 2005 or earlier for the seven other affected counties.

To request an extension, employers must send a letter to EDD, along with any late payment or report. The letter must provide detailed information as to why the report or payment could not be submitted timely. The letter should specifically request an extension of time under Section 1111.5 of the CUIC.

Employers should mail the tax return or payment to the address specified on the filing form. If an employer has already been charged a late filing or payment penalty that they believe may qualify for this extension, they should send their written request to P.O. Box 826846, MIC 3A, Sacramento, CA 94246-0001.

For further information, employers should visit EDD's Web site at www.edd.ca.gov or call EDD's Taxpayer Assistance Center at 1-888-745-3886.

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